

Petersburg, indicating that his appointment would be acceptable to the Administration. In the Russian service promotion is almost invariably the result of regular graduation, unless there be some extraordinary fitness justifying an exception, as in the case of Gen. Todleben. Still, a sufficient reason may be found for a departure from the ordinary routine in this instance from the request of the Government. It is very well known that the present British Minister, Mr. Cranston, was appointed at the suggestion of Mr. Webster. He was acting as Sir Henry Bulwer, and when negotiations were about to be opened, Mr. Webster signed a friendly disposition, and the then Minister of Foreign Affairs—Lord Grenville, I think—eagerly seized the opportunity, and discarded the regular principle of promotion.

Mr. Stoeckl too has some claim on American sympathy, by a matrimonial connection. In following the example of his former chief, Mr. Bodisco, he has strengthened the social tie which for so long a time has intimately connected the Russian Legation here with our Government. Within a few years several of the Foreign Ministers have rendered their tribute to the worth and attractions of American women by the highest evidence of their appreciation of both. Mr. Bodisco married Mrs. Williams of Georgetown; Mr. Sartige, the French Minister, married Miss Thordike of Boston; Mr. Banneles, formerly Secretary of the Spanish Legation, married the sister of Madame Sartige; Mr. Bodisco, present Secretary of the French Legation, married the daughter of Col. Benton; Mr. Marcella, Minister from Nicaragua, married Miss Kichbaer of this city; Mr. Carvalho, the late Chilean Minister, gave two manifestations of this "distinguished consideration" to the United States, and now Mr. Stoeckl, emulating these precedents, with others forgotten, makes his confession, and swells the catalogue. If rumor for once may be credited, there are others well inclined to seek the same sort of distinction.

Although the demonstration which Mr. Brenton of Indiana made in the House yesterday, when signifying his inclination to try some other candidate than Mr. Banks, excited surprise and regret, still it is believed to have proceeded rather from impatience at the delay, and a desire to expedite the result, than from any disposition to interfere with success. It was made without concert, and therefore fell upon the House without any better effect than the movement of his colleague, Mr. Dunn, which might have furnished some warning against experiments.

The delay in Mr. Banks's election thus far has been occasioned by a series of internal troubles and mishaps, which have all tended to fortify his position and to increase the prospect of ultimate success. Daily for the last week the minority have been assailed by malcontents there would be a break in the noble column which has so gallantly withstood both open assault and secret treachery. But the defection, though often threatened, has never yet dared to show itself, and the moral power of this phalanx is more confirmed to-day than it has been at any former time. While the minority were encouraged by the hope of a withdrawal, they stood by eagerly watching every turn, and ready to seize upon whatever advantage might be offered. That indecision, however, longer exists, and they can well afford to relax a vigilance which is cheered by such limited promise of recompense.

An accident yesterday defeated an election. The material to assure success was within reach, and, therefore, defeat is harder to bear. Let the lesson be useful, however, if the contest should happen to be prolonged. On the first ballot Mr. Banks had 105 votes, being five short of an election. It was well ascertained that Mr. Moore of Ohio, and Messrs. Williams and Edwards of New-York were prepared to cooperate whenever their votes could determine the choice. On the second ballot the general aggregate was reduced, and three of Mr. Banks's friends—Mr. Houston, Mr. Miller and Mr. Tyson—left the House, not expecting another trial. The votes, combined with the three above named, would have terminated the struggle. But this failure has given an assurance of power, and, therefore, to the weak is always positive strength, and, therefore, if the same force can be mustered to-morrow, it will be with a well-founded hope of a triumph at no distant time.

THE LATEST NEWS.

RECEIVED BY
MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
Our hopes of a Speaker to-day were dispelled by the falling away of Mr. Brenton of Indiana, Mr. Bishop of New-York, and Messrs. Robbins and Clawson of New-Jersey on the first ballot, and of one or two others afterward. There will be no Speaker until the Plurality rule is adopted. We expect others to fall off until Banks's vote is reduced to ninety, where I think it will hold until the Democrats are willing to try the plurality. There will be no more coaxing of those who have bolted or threaten to bolt. But those who mean to go, are urged to make haste.

Mr. Eustis of Louisiana, a Southern American, made a telling speech to-day in wholesale denunciation of the Anti-Catholic test of his brother Know-Nothings, the Order in Louisiana repudiating the Protestant test.

The House finally had a sharp struggle on adjourning over to-morrow, as a Democratic holiday which was once rejected, but finally conceded. We cannot afford to even seem discourteous. The Democrats are now in caucus.

SECOND DISPATCH.
The Democratic caucus to-night resolved to stick to their candidates, platform and course. They also resolved not to adjourn on Wednesday, until a Speaker is chosen, unless it should be over the Sabbath. Several Members gave notice that they would vote for the plurality rule if the measure should be proposed. The general impression is that we shall have a Speaker this week. H. G.

From Our Own Correspondent.
We have had one ballot in the House for Speaker to-day, Banks receiving 101—seven short of an election. Britton did not vote, and Tyson was persuaded to pair off with Broome.

From Another Correspondent.
Between forty and fifty Democratic Members of the House met in caucus to-night. Mr. Jones of Tenn., took the chair, and Messrs. Rufin and English as Secretaries. After an interchange of views it was represented that Mr. Richardson was willing to be dropped, provided another could be nominated with a better prospect of success. It was abandoned that the withdrawing of him should be an abandonment of the platform. Some Democrats considered this caucus unnecessary, and probably nothing definite will be accomplished.

From Our Own Correspondent.

ALBANY, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
The Senate met and adjourned—no quorum present. In the House a quorum was present—74 Members in all. Adjourned.

NON-ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.
HALIFAX, Monday, Jan. 7—11 P. M.
The night is fine and clear, but there are still signs of the Canada.

XXXIVTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.—WASHINGTON, Jan. 7, 1856.
Mr. BRODHEAD called up his resolution directing the Committee on Finance to inquire into the expediency of reporting the Senate Appropriation bill, or adopting more speedy action on them to avoid the evils of night sessions at the close of each Congress, and the sense of the Senate was taken thereon.

Mr. CLAYTON had no doubt of the power to originate those bills. Twenty-seven years ago the bill referred to was as good as now, no measures competent having been taken since.

Mr. TOOMBS did not think this true remedy. The difficulty was occasioned by large numbers of amendments being tacked on to bills at a late period of the session.

Mr. SEWARD, while favoring the resolution, would not commit himself as to the propriety of the remedy proposed.

The resolution was adopted, and the Senate adjourned to Thursday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
The House proceeded to vote for Speaker.

First Ballot.

Banks.....101 Richardson.....73
Fuller.....29 Pennington.....6
Scattering.....5

Necessary for a choice, 168.
Three additional votes were taken. The last was as follows:

Second Ballot.

For Mr. Banks.....101 For Mr. Richardson.....73
For Mr. Fuller.....29 For Mr. Pennington.....6
Scattering.....5

Necessary for a choice, 168.
During the proceedings an edifying episode took place.

Mr. EUSTIS, in defining the position of the American party in Louisiana, repudiated the eighth section of the Philadelphia platform, preferring that his right arm should wither rather than that he should be connected with any party whose purpose was to persecute or proscriber American Catholics.

Mr. SMITH (Ala.) took issue with Mr. Eustis. He was opposed to Roman Catholicism, because it owed allegiance to the Pope above the Constitution. There has never been a time when the priests in their assemblies did not cast their power against the people.

Mr. FLORENCE referred Mr. Smith to the Irish Catholics under Father Murphy at Vinegar Hill, [Laughter.]

Mr. TAYLOR (La.) referred to history to show that in the French Revolution the priests joined the people in their successful warfare against the two other estates—nobles and clergy.

Mr. WALKER (Ala.) conceived that the purpose of the American party was political. If he thought religious persecution was a prominent feature, he would not leave from such an organization.

Adjourned to Wednesday.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.—ALBANY, Jan. 7.
The Senate met at 10 P. M., and a quorum not being present, adjourned.

ASSEMBLY.

On the roll being called, twenty-four Members answered to their names. Of these, twenty-eight were Americans. A motion was made to cite members to attend, but without acting upon it, the House adjourned till Tuesday. Very few Members remained in Albany over Sunday, and many were detained by the deep snow.

OHIO LEGISLATURE.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
The State Senate organized this morning. W. L. Buscom of Franklin was elected Clerk. The usual joint resolution fixing a day for convening the returns of the vote for Governor was passed—Wednesday being the day designated.

In the hall of the House of Representatives a very large number of persons assembled to witness the organization. Dr. Trevitt, Secretary of State, called the House to order. N. H. Van Voorhis of Athens was chosen Speaker, and James Robinson of Hardin Clerk. Gov. Medill sent in his Message. It is very lengthy.

NEW-JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

TRENTON, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
Our Legislature meets to-morrow, and there is considerable excitement among the large number of candidates for office. It is doubtful which party will be able to secure the organization.

THE VETERANS OF 1812.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
The Veterans of 1812, from New-York, have arrived here, and start for Baltimore to-night.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

EASTON, Pa., Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
A sleigh, containing Charles Wolf and son, came in collision with a train on the Lehigh Valley Road this morning near Calanassau, and both the occupants were severely injured.

FROM HAVANA.

NEW-ORLEANS, Saturday, Jan. 5, 1856.
The steamship Calcutta arrived here from Havana with the 2d inst. There is no news of importance. Sugars were languishing, and Molasses looking up on account of large European contracts.

FROM TEXAS.

NEW-ORLEANS, Saturday, Jan. 5, 1856.
By the steamer Mexico, we have Galveston dates to the 3d inst., but the news from Texas is wholly unimportant.

FIRE AT ROME.

UTICA, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
A building in Rome, owned by the State, and used for storing implements for Canal repairs, was burned on Saturday night. Nothing was saved. The fire broke out here at midnight. The thermometer this morning was ten degrees below zero.

THE NEW MAIL-ROUTE TO NEW-ORLEANS.

CAIRO, Ill., Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
The steamer Fannie Ballant arrived here in six days from New-Orleans, bringing the first daily mail under the new contract.

The new depot at the Grand City branch of the Illinois Central Railroad blew down this morning.

DEATH OF DR. STEPHEN W. TAYLOR.

UTICA, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.
Stephen W. Taylor, LL.D., President of the Madison University, died at Hamilton this morning, aged 65 years.

DR. VALK, M. C., AGAIN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, Saturday, Jan. 5, 1856.

The editor of THE TRIBUNE has on several occasions since the 3d Dec. permitted anonymous letters to appear in its columns, not only abusive, but false and calumnious as regards myself. I have not thought it incumbent on me to give them any notice, but in THE TRIBUNE of yesterday, the editor has published another letter, again without date or name, and also what purports to be a communication written by myself to some person at Greenport, L. I. I notice this last effort only to say that no such letter was ever written by me, and leave the reader to draw his own inferences of its genuineness, and of the motives which led to its publication.

I would respectfully suggest to the editor the fairness and propriety of excluding these cowardly misdeeds from his columns; or, if he is determined to insert them, to insist upon giving full publicity to the real name of their authors.

WM. W. VALK.

—In noticing the above, we may be allowed to say that a lecture on social or professional proprieties comes with very bad grace from a person who has been found guilty by a public court of having taken advantage of his own professional position to make infamous overtures to the wife of a neighbor, and a patient. How much respect is due to the word of a man who has been proved capable of such base and dishonorable falseness, is a question which we will also leave to the same reader to whom Dr. Valk appeals to doubt the genuineness of that letter of his which we published on Friday last, addressed by him to a citizen of Greenport, Long Island, and pledging himself, if elected to Congress, to vote for the Homestead bill. For the rest, we can say that we have in our possession the original of that letter, and that the handwriting, signature, and everything, perfectly resembles that of the above elegant epistle from the House of Representatives. If it is a forgery, it is a very skillful one indeed. In addition to this, we

have the testimony of the party to whom it was addressed, who assures us that the questions to which Dr. Valk replied so decidedly in the affirmative, were precisely as we stated them on Friday. On the whole, then, we rather think that the gay, gallant, philandering member from the 1st District has fallen into one of those little bits of forgetfulness to which both politicians and lovers are so liable. We presume that, as he didn't mean in the least what he said in the Greenport letter, the fact of writing it was very naturally and easily escaped from his mind.

FROM KANSAS.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LAWRENCE, K. T., Monday, Dec. 24, 1855.

The Convention to nominate candidates for the State ticket of the future State of Kansas closed its active labors on Saturday night about midnight, providing, however, for a short session this forenoon to adopt a platform. The Convention was well attended. In spite of the severity of the weather there were only some seven or eight vacancies in the whole of the delegations from different parts of the Territory. An active interest seemed to pervade the Delegates, and had there been no doubt or contingency as to the success of the movement to give a State Government to Kansas, there could have been no more sanguine anxiety as to the result. The forenoon session was short. Gen. Robinson was called to the chair and a Mr. Cole acted as Secretary. A resolution was introduced authorizing such delegations as had not their full numbers to throw a full vote. The appointment of a Committee on Credentials and one on the Organization of the Convention being made, the forenoon session closed.

During the afternoon session there was little doubt about the canvassing and debating about the seats of delegates. Mr. Thurston of Manhattan was nominated President of the Convention, Messrs. Redpath and Lowry Secretaries, and a lot of Vice-Presidents, whose names I forget. There was also a Committee, to draft a platform, consisting of Messrs. Robinson, Schuyler, Lane and Phillips.

At length the nominating machinery went to work, and after long and repeated ballottings, the following gentlemen were put in nomination:

For Governor.....CHARLES ROBINSON (Rep.)
For Lieut. Governor.....W. T. ROBERTS (Old Line Dem.)
For Congress.....M. W. DELAHAY (Old Line Dem.)
For Secy of State.....C. C. CROTON (Rep.)
For Secy of Education.....D. A. CITLER (Rep.)
For State Treasurer.....A. W. WARFIELD (Rep.)
For State Judges.....L. L. LATTIN (Rep.), M. F. CONWAY and MORRIS HUNT (Reps.)
For Ch. Jus. Court.....S. B. FLOYD (Dem.)
For Superior Court.....THURSTON (Local Rep.)
For Atty. General.....JOHN SPEER (Rep.)

It will thus be seen that most of those who voted for the Kansas-Nebraska resolutions of Delahay have been left off the ticket save Col. Delahay, who received the nomination for Congress. This he received by a very close vote, and I believe on a local division of the officers. That a majority of the people of the Territory wish him to represent them, or that he can properly represent them I do not believe. There was a disposition to give nominations to men living in different parts of the Territory and also to men of different politics, and those parties who thus got nominations got them on the question of the unity of the Free-State party on the bare question of a Free State.

There was quite a contest between Robinson and Lane, or rather between the friends of these gentlemen, for the office of Governor. The latter gentleman used all the political skill he so eminently possesses, but on the final ballot it stood, Robinson, 55; Lane, 22. This vote may indicate the true sentiment here better than anything else.

The weather is now terribly severe. To-day the thermometer has been down to 17 degrees below zero; it is snowing, and the wind drifts the snow about in eddies. Traveling is almost impossible. My ink freezes while I write. I must confess "the purpose of my firm philosophy" has not prepared me for anything so fierce from the North Pole as this weather. To face the Border Ruffians is nothing compared to facing the north-wester. I will give you more full particulars of the Convention, and also of my recent arduous tour, when I throw out. There has been no platform adopted to-day; in fact, it was too cold to meet.

The vote on the Constitution has been very light. To the north of the Kaw River, along the Missouri, it was almost a total failure, owing to the mobbing of the ballot-boxes, and the other means of intimidation resorted to by the Border Ruffians. On this side of the Kaw River, and all through the south part of the Territory, the vote has been light. In consequence of the recent war, which prevented the sending of poll-books or the making of any effort in its favor, the vote will fall short of two thousand.

ESTIMATE OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR 1855.

From The National Intelligencer, Jan. 7.

We have been obligingly furnished from the Patent Office with the unpublished interesting approximate estimate of the Agricultural Products of the United States for the year 1855, made up from the most authentic accessible data by D. J. Browne, esq., the efficient Superintendent of the Agricultural Division of the Bureau. It may be here said that if there is error in the estimate, it is in falling below rather than above the truth, either in the quantity or value of the products:

VEGETABLE PRODUCTS. Total Value.

Indian Corn.....185,000,000 bushels, at 50 cts.....92,500,000
Wheat.....125,000,000 bushels, at 50 cts.....62,500,000
Rye.....14,000,000 bushels, at 50 cts.....7,000,000
Barley.....6,000,000 bushels, at 50 cts.....3,000,000
Millet.....10,000,000 bushels, at 50 cts.....5,000,000
Buckwheat.....10,000,000 bushels, at 50 cts.....5,000,000
Potatoes (all sorts).....110,000,000 bushels, at 25 cts.....27,500,000
Beans and Peas.....5,000,000 bushels, at 25 cts.....1,250,000
Clover & Grass Seed.....1,000,000 bushels, at 25 cts.....250,000
Milk.....100,000,000 gallons, at 10 cts.....10,000,000
Sugar (cane).....500,000,000 pounds, at 7 cts.....35,000,000
Sugar (maple).....10,000,000 pounds, at 30 cts.....3,000,000
Wine.....2,000,000 gallons, at 15 cts.....300,000
Hops.....2,500,000 pounds, at 15 cts.....375,000
Orchard Products.....25,000,000
Garden Products.....50,000,000
Tobacco.....100,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....10,000,000
Fruit and other products.....10,000,000
Hemp.....30,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....3,000,000
Flax.....10,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....1,000,000
Fur.....10,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....1,000,000
Palm-oil.....10,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....1,000,000
Butter.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Eggs.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Honey.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Sisal.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Silk.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Wool.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Hides.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Bones.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Tallow.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Lard.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Oleum.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Stearine.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Candles.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Soap.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Paper.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Books.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Clothing.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Furniture.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Buildings.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Transportation.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Manufactures.....2,000,000 pounds, at 10 cts.....200,000
Total.....\$1,000,000,000

DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS. Total Value.

Horned Cattle.....21,000,000, at 60 cts.....12,600,000
Horses, Asses and Mules.....5,000,000, at 60 cts.....3,000,000
Sheep.....30,000,000, at 30 cts.....9,000,000
Poultry.....20,000,000, at 30 cts.....6,000,000
Swine.....10,000,000, at 30 cts.....3,000,000
Dogs.....1,000,000, at 30 cts.....300,000
Bees.....1,000,000, at 30 cts.....300,000
Total.....\$30,200,000

SHOCKING ACCIDENT ON THE READING RAILROAD.

A shocking accident, which resulted in the loss of life, occurred on the Reading Railroad, near Norristown, on Saturday evening. A coal train had broken down on the track, and the locomotive was taken from the passenger train to push the wreck out of the way. After performing this work, and when the engine was about to be reattached to the passenger train, Edward Preston, the baggage-master, was caught between the locomotive and the baggage car and crushed to death. The accident was a shocking one, and the body was found in a half an hour and a half at Norristown, where it was conveyed. He leaves a wife and two children. His family reside at No. 24 Madison street. The deceased was much esteemed.

Philadelphia Bulletin, Jan. 7.

NIBLO'S.

NEW PANTOMIME AND BALLET.

The RAVES may be called the actors of the impossible. One of the first things a child is made sensible of is an idea of the physically possible. He perceives that he cannot fly through the air, cannot penetrate walls, rocks, or trees; cannot evoke any living thing faster than the laws of growth permit; cannot survive under water, or change the external form of nature. Then his imagination begins to play. He creates accordingly fables, monsters, impossibilities, and all manner of curious fancies not found in the relations of the world about him. To materialize these fancies is the art of the Raves, and when the theory and practice of the grotesque and ludicrous are added to such representations of the supernatural, the effect is irresistible on the childish mind. We question if any infantile play is quite equal to that of seeing these multifarious funny fellows in one of their pantomimes. All the ordinary modes of applause are pale and cold in comparison with the hurrahs of juvenile laughter on these occasions; and the dominant electricity of the occasion being high-grown nonsense, adults come in for a large slice of enjoyment at the entertainment. Antoine Ravel must, we guess, have been born with a grin extending from ear to ear, and then taking a fresh start; and whether that white face of his is natural or artificial, we have never been able to learn; we believe, however, that it is the former. Wonderfully accomplished is he then in the vis comica by nature; but being, besides, disposed bodily half-and-half of India-rubber and sturgeon nose, he is quite indifferent as to the fact whether he touches the ground or falls from a height, or in any single place in particular at any particular time. We are told confidentially that one day being run over by an omnibus he had twelve persons—though there were actually twenty-three in it at the time—he did not experience the slightest inconvenience, but on the contrary felt the effect as rather exhilarating. This we can readily believe, for the belabors, tumbles, hangings, drawings, and other severe personalities he undergoes in the course of a pantomime, must render him omnibus-wheel proof.

In the new pantomime, Ravel, or the Magic Star, given last night, he and his condottieri full play for their law-breaking diabolism. All the auditors laughed till they could laugh no longer, and then the curtain generously fell. The plot of the pantomime we need not analyze provided we could, which is not the case. A live lover and his sweetheart of course are persecuted by a hateful foe of a suitor, backed by a miserly father and his malicious servant. A protecting fairy of course has a finger in the pie, and a fairy in a pantomime is a serious personage. Any such little matter as turning the heavens into the earth, or vice-versa; solidifying water or transfiguring rocks into pure cotton; abolishing geography and lumping places together in a moment—these are all moon-babe to a pantomime fairy. Whom, then, would be pleased with a superlatively of imaginary wizardry and a freedom of impossible drollery, may safely witness the new pantomime.

In addition to the pantomime company, the presence of Mlle. Robert, and other stars from the Academy of Music, Paris, an alternator lately there with Mlle. Gerito, and hence an artist of the first class—is alone an attraction of the best order. Besides, she is assisted by a corps de ballet. We suppose the success of the new pantomime will cause it to be successively repeated.

LAURA KEENE'S VARIETIES.

Last evening a play was presented at the theater entitled "The King of the Court and the Queen of the Market." We were happy to recognize in this new acquaintance an old friend, with some slight alterations of dress and situation, but we cannot think that in this reënactment he improves upon the palate. The first act was most dull and weary. To the second the picturesque brightness of the scene, the gay groupings and the interludes of dance and song, gave pleasure, and we trust its joyous movement may carry it through some weeks, as evidently no expense has been spared in dress or decoration to surround it with attraction. The piece affords but little scope for acting, the only feature of the evening being Mr. Hall's personation of the Mother of the Market. In amplitude of proportion, rich fulness of look, and riot of slang, he was the character to perfection. The house was, as it has been every evening, notwithstanding the unpromising state of the weather, most fully and fashionably attended, and we recognized among the audience many of the Opera habitués.

Still, such pieces as that of last night are not the ones which bring out the legitimate beauties of such a theater, or to which Miss Reeve must chiefly look for success. The "Varieties" would appear to have been started much on the same principle as were the Olympic, Covent Garden and Lyceum in London under the brilliant management of Madame Vestris, and the brilliant management of the French. There is all that air of elegance surrounding the stage, that grace of design and delicacy of artistic arrangement which distinguish the French above all other nations. It would appear, indeed, to rest chiefly its attraction upon light, brilliant pieces, surrounding an occasional spot of pathos with a glitter of gay vivacity, and the memory of which is, at the close, in song and dance laughed pleasantly away. In the selections Miss Keene has up to this time made, she has adhered to this idea with a taste deserving of every encouragement and commendation. The few pieces she has already produced, though not altogether new, are brilliant, full of fresh incident, animated dialogue and simplicity and genuine development of plot, and at the same time are wholly relieved from a taint, either in sentiment or expression of what is objectionable or morbid.

We presume her repertoire will include "As You Like It," "Midsummer Night's Dream," and such other creations of Shakespeare, so full of sweet pathos and wild, cunning fancy. And some of the light operas of Auber would we fancy carry a charm. It can at once be seen that this theater has a refined, graceful character of its own, and without interfering with any other establishment, will offer in the next few months, while the Italian opera is closed, a most charming substitute for those who reside up-town.

The amusements of the city have certainly never degenerated even for an instant into a bare—rare at times—entertainment, and have been kept within moderate limits—another advantage—the performance closing at 10 o'clock.

The arrangements are, too, graceful and comfortable. Indeed, on the whole, the works of Laura Keene's Varieties are pleasant ways, and we trust her path may be a path of flowers. Her part is to amuse and not instruct. Instruction comes of its own accord, well; but we doubt whether that great analyzer of nature, Fielding, would be wise in his philosophy when he said: "Nay, I will appeal to common observation whether the same company are not found more full of good humor and benevolence after they have been sweetened for two or three hours with 'entertainments of this kind than when sated by a 'tragedy or a dull lecture'."

She will best carry out this purpose by adhering to such pieces as we have pointed out. "The Dream of Delusions" comes quite within this sphere. Mr. Jordan's personation of his Bernard Harleigh was marked by singular truth and beauty, while Miss Keene's picture of the wife was full of that graceful, unaffected ease and sunny charm which makes her, to us, when she does not wander out of the sphere of her own nature, decidedly the best actress of her school on the English or American stage. Last evening she was out of her natural dominion. The piece was, however, received with applause and crowned with the usual honors.

Dr. William H. Harding, a member of the House of Delegates of Virginia, aged about thirty-five years, died at Richmond on Friday last.

Six negroes stampeded from Middlebury, London County, Va., on Christmas Eve.

THE FIRST DEEP SNOW.

To-day has been a pleasant day. Despite the cold and snow, a softness suffused the air, and pictures clustered everywhere. Around, above, below.

We woke at dawn, and saw the trees Before our windows white; Their limbs were clad with snow, like bark. Save that the under sides were dark.— Like bars against the light.

The fence was white around the house, The lamp before the door: The porch was glazed with pearted snow,— Great drifts lay in the silent street.— The street was seen no more!

Long trenches had been roughly dug, And giant footprints made; But few were out; the streets were bare— I saw but one pale wanderer there, And he was like a shade!

I seemed to walk another world, Where all was still and blest: The cloudless sky, the stainless snow— It was a vision of repose. A dream of heavenly rest.